

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1340

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, ZA
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON KENNETH KAUNDA

REF: A) LUSAKA 1027 OF APRIL 21, 1976, B) STATE 96053

1. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT (REFTEL B) ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S DIETARY HABITS ARE CORRECT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE SERVES WINE TO HIS GUESTS BUT TAKES FRUIT JUICE (USUALLY ORANGE) HIMSELF. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, KAUNDA'S DIETARY PREFERENCES ARE A MATTER OF CHOICE AND NOT DICTATED BY HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS.

2. WE ARE INFORMED THAT MRS. KAUNDA SUFFERS FROM DIABETES AND THAT SHE FOLLOWS A DIABETIC DIET. STATE HOUSE TELLS US THAT AT THIS STAGE SHE PLANS TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO THE STATES. MRS. KAUNDA DOES NOT FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT, RARELY TAKING PART IN PUBLIC CEREMONIES. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE SEES HERSELF MORE IN THE ROLE OF A WIFE AND MOTHER THAN THAT OF A HELPMATE TO HER HUSBAND IN GOVERNING. SHE IS A BIT ON THE SHY, RETIRING SIDE BUT SHE IS BY NO MEANS TOTALLY LACKING IN SOPHISTICATION. "BETTY KAUNDA" A BIOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN A. MPASHI PORTRAYS HER LIFE DURING ZAMBIA'S INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE AND OFFERS INSIGHTS INTO HER CHARACTER. WE BELIEVE THOSE MEETING WITH HER WOULD FIND BENEFICIAL EXCERPTS FROM THIS BOOK, WHICH VIVIDLY PORTRAYS SOME
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OF THE HARDSHIPS SHE ENDURED AS THE WIFE OF ONE OF ZAMBIA'S LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES.

3. KAUNDA IS AN AVID GOLFER BUT NOT TO THE POINT OF PLAYING EVERY DAY. HE TRIES TO PLAY HIS NINE HOLE COURSE THREE TO FOUR TIMES A WEEK. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HE DOES NOT JOG. HIS SINGING VOICE IS STILL SOUND AND RECENTLY HE ACCOMPANIED HIMSELF ON

THE GUITAR ON TELEVISION. WE SUSPECT THAT HE CONTINUES TO READ THE BIBLE.

4. IN OUR DEALINGS WITH KAUNDA, WE HAVE NOT BEEN STRUCK BY THE PROTOCOL CONSCIOUSNESS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL. DINNERS AND RECEPTIONS GIVEN BY KAUNDA DO FOLLOW A FORMAT BORDERING ON RITUAL. PRE DINNER DRINKS ARE SERVED DURING A FIFTEEN TO TWENTY MINUTE PERIOD AFTER WHICH GUESTS MOVE TO THE TABLE. KAUNDA DOES NOT LIKE TO DISCUSS BUSINESS AT THE TABLE AND CAN BE QUITE FIRM IN DISCOURAGING THOSE WHO TRY TO GET HIM INVOLVED IN SUBSTANCE DURING DINNER. BUSINESS DISCUSSION TAKES PLACE AFTER COFFEE AND TEA WHICH IS SERVED BY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF. WITHIN THE CONFINES DESCRIBED ABOVE, KAUNDA TENDS TO BE AFFABLE. HE IS APPRECIATIVE OF A HUMOROUS REMARK AND READILY JOINS IN LAUGHTER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT KAUNDA IS CONSCIOUS OF TIMING. HE EXPECTS HIS GUESTS TO BE ON TIME AND HE MAKES AN EFFORT, NOT ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL, TO BE ON TIME HIMSELF. WE SUSPECT THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF A STATE VISIT, HE WOULD BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE THAT SCHEDULES BE ADHERED TO AND THAT HE RECEIVE THE DEFERENCE GIVEN TO A VISITING HEAD OF STATE.

5. IN MEETING WITH SOMEONE HE DOES NOT KNOW WELL, KAUNDA CAN COME ACROSS BIT ON THE HEAVY SIDE. INEVITABLY THE CONVERSATION TURNS TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THIS CAN TRIGGER A KAUNDA MONOLOGUE COVERING HIS MORALISTIC-CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO THE LIBERATION OF THAT REGION. HE PLACES THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN

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THE CONTEXT OF HOW A GOOD CHRISTIAN SHOULD APPROACH THE LIBERATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ENSLAVED. CHRISTIANS EVERYWHERE, IF THEY BELIEVE IN THEIR RELIGION, SHOULD SEE IT AS THEIR DUTY TO HELP LIBERATE THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE NATIONS OF THE WEST PROFESSING TO BE CHRISTIAN DO NOT TAKE UP THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AGAINST THE FORCES OF INJUSTICE? HOW CAN IT BE THAT THE BOERS OF SOUTH AFRICA, WHO TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIANITY, ACT IN THE WAY THEY DO THEIR BLACK BROTHERS? AT SOME POINT IN THIS TYPE OF EXPOSITION, KAUNDA IS APT TO BECOME QUITE EMOTIONAL.

6. REF A OFFERS EXCELLENT INFORMATION ON KAUNGA, MUCH OF WHICH WE REGARD AS STILL PERTINENT WITH SOME RESERVATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE AGREE THAT KAUNDA CAN BE CHARMING AND URBANE, BUT WE HAVE NOT FOUND HIM AN ENTERTAINING RACONTEUR AND STIMULATING CONVERSATIONALIST. ALSO WE WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE HIS APPROACH TO THIRD WORLD ISSUES AS PRAGMATIC. TO THE CONTRARY, IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT TEND TO GO WITH THE THIRD WORLD CONSENSUS RATHER THAN

APPROACHING ISSUES IN TERMS OF PRAGMATISM. WE ALSO
WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT KAUNDA'S APPRECIATION OF
THE U.S. ROLE IN AFRICA HAS CHANGED WITH THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION. IN THE PAST HE ARGUED
THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SHOULD ITS MORAL RESPONSIBILITY
AND USE ITS WEIGHT TO LIBERATE SOUTHERN
AFRICA. THIS IS STILL HIS POSITION, BUT IN
PRESIDENT CARTER HE SEES A KINDRED SPIRIT, WHO
HAS FORMULATED HIS APPROACH TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS
ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLES ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SHARED BY KAUNDA. ANY DEFICIENCIES IN CARRYING
OUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHERN
AFRICA IS SEEN AS DUE TO RESTRAINTS PLACED UPON THE
PRESIDENT BY WHAT KAUNDA DEFINES AS THE U.S.
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ESTABLISHMENT.

7. AMBASSADOR LOW ON HIS RETURN WILL WISH TO ADD
TO THE ABOVE APPREACTION. BIO INFORMATION ON
THOSE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT KAUNDA WILL BE
PROVIDED WHEN WE ARE INFORMED OF WHO THEY WILL
BE.

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